



## Tuesday, June 7, 2022 ▫ Read Psalm 54

*Questions from the Scripture text: To whom is the Psalm addressed (superscript)? Who penned it? On what occasion? What does he ask for in v1a? By what? What does he ask for in v1b? By what? What does he ask for in v2a? In v2b? Who has done what in v3a? Who have done what in v3b? What do the two have in common (v3c)? But Who is God to David (v4a)? Whom else does the Lord help (v4b)? But what will the Lord do to David's enemies (v5a)? In what will He cut them off (v5b)? In what two ways will David respond to God (v6)? For what two actions, specifically, will he praise (v7)?*

**What is the benefit of setting God before your eyes?** Psalm 54 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these seven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the one who is devoted to God's praise will enjoy deliverances for which to praise Him, but the one who opposes God and His people will be cut off by the faithfulness of God.

God's Name (v1a) refers to God's display, communication, declaration of Himself. And when He declares Himself, men suddenly discover that blessing and curse come by beholding God and ignoring God, respectively.

Curse comes by ignoring God. The hostility of the wicked in v3a–b is explained by v3c, "they have not set God before them." The wicked don't factor Him into their actions. This is a grave miscalculation, because the One they ignored does not reciprocate by ignoring them. Rather, He repays them for their evil (v5a). They act as if they can get away with it, but are suddenly cut down, because God is faithful to Himself even if they are not mindful of Him (v5b). They may lie to themselves about God, but He will show the truth about Himself!

Blessing comes by beholding God. "they have not set God before them" at the end of v3 is immediately contrasted by "Behold! God! My Helper!" in v4a. Indeed, before faith can detect God's presence, faith addresses God's ear (v2). Faith is convinced about God even when it cannot see Him and sure of His answer even before it arrives (cf. Heb 11:1). Others who acknowledge God are not hostile to the godly, and the Lord is with them too (v4b).

Praise is the right response to beholding God. Faith is "bilingual." It's first language is prayer, crying out to God (v2). But interaction with Him brings home the purpose for which we exist, and the purpose for which we know He will redeem us: to praise Him. David is still on the run when he pens this Psalm, but his faith "sees" his future deliverance and vindication (v7). So, he responds to God for the very thing he is requesting. Faith does not (must not!) wait for deliverance to arrive before it praises God for it.

Many a believer longs to live a life of prayer and praise. Then let him behold those displays that his God has made of Himself! (especially His Word, which He has exalted above all His Name, cf. 138:2).

In what activities and at what times does God especially set Himself before you? What does it look like to behold Him actively in those times? How do you take beholding Him into the rest of your life?

*Sample prayer: Lord, knowing You is eternal life. Beholding You, glorifying You, and enjoying You is our great purpose. All wickedness comes from not setting You before us. So, help us now in Your worship. Set Yourself before us. Make us to behold You and to offer freely the sacrifice of praise to Your good Name for Your great salvation! For we ask it in Your matchless Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP54 "By Your Name, O God" or TPH54 "By Your Name, O God"**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Psalm 54. These are the words of God to the chief musician. Was stringed instruments, a contemplation of David when the zipites went out and said to Saul is David not hiding with us. Save me. O God, while your name and vindicate me by your strength Here. My prayer. O.

God, give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen up against me and the pressers have sought after my life. They have not set God before them. Hold God is my helper. The Lord is with those who uphold my life, He will repay my enemies for their evil.

Cut them off in your truth. I will freely sacrifice to you. I will praise your name o Yahweh for. It is good for he has delivered me out of all trouble. And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

God's name, of course, is that there's refers to however he communicates himself to us, God knows himself. Perfectly intimately. Completely all at once, from all eternity. But he makes himself known to us. And various ways of declaring in selfie does actually use a name, the way we think about the word name ordinarily.

Remember, he gives the name. I am or Yahweh. As a contraction of that, There's his memorial name to all generations, but his name is anyway, in which he just displays himself, especially by means of his word and the word, the Lord Jesus God, the son, second person of the Trinity.

He's just save me. O God by your name and vindicate me by your strength. He's asking God to display himself to make declaration or communication or display of himself. And we discover at the end of verse 3, that this is directly related to what his enemies have done. He talks about strangers have risen up against me in oppressors of sought after my life.

Why, and how, what was a, the main thing in their doing this and diverse three? They have not set God before them and so you want to put a halt to, you want to see the wicked stopped? And the vengeance of God come upon them. You pray that God would display himself At the same time at reminds us that all of our wickedness comes by.

Not setting. God before us If you truly had God set before. You not only in his love and mercy to you as your redeemer, but even if you're unbeliever and you had the holy God before you You'd tremble and cower and be paralyzed. But as believers, Not only does the holiness and power righteousness of God, halt, our sin, but having his love, his mercy is goodness.

His faithfulness is being our helper. Also would prevent our sin and that makes us all the more grieved over our sin. Because it means that we haven't been thinking about our God and been loving him, who first loved us, who hadn't been offering our souls unto him. As we do most concentratedly spiritual sacrifice in our worship times.

And we haven't been offering our bodies unto him as living sacrifice and our whole life. So sin comes by ignoring God curse comes upon sinners because they do not set God before them. And when God makes Himself appear when he declares himself displays himself Then well then comes there repayment.

He will repay my enemies for their evil verse 5. Then comes there being cut off or cut down. They're just hurtling along. And as if God does not exist and it seems to be going well for them, except for one thing, God exists and then God makes display of his existence and all at.

Once they're destroyed, they're cut down, cut them off in your truth. David says, by the Spirit in verse 5, but if sin comes by ignoring God, then righteousness comes by beholding, God by being mindful of him, remembering him, then he puts all anxiety out of our hearts about the future, He puts all frustration out of our hearts about the present.

He gives us motivation that we would serve him that we do things well and honor him from the heart even as we find that we are weak and cannot do them as well as we want to. And yet, he is bearing us up and he is bearing with us and here's glorious in his mercy and Providence to us.

And so beholding, God, having him before our eyes is, what makes us to walk in the way of righteousness and gives us all blessedness. We don't need special new display of himself because he's already displayed himself to us and his word and he's already displayed himself to us in the creation.

He started display himself to us in our hearts. He started, displayed himself to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And so, we have all of these things without new display. New interaction, new intervention in the circumstance of our lives. We may always set God before us. Especially we in this age where Christ sits on the throne and is poured out his spirit to dwell in our hearts and we have the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to communicate to us, always the presence of God.

And yet, when he does intervene, particularly when he brings us into glory, perfect us and holiness. And then again, when the Lord Jesus returns, and at the resurrection, and the judgment in the new heavens and the new earth, Then we find that our blessedness is magnified to infinity and that all of these joys and comforts and strengthenings, that we had the entire time by having fellowship with God, and living with him set before our eyes, that, that was just the, the faintest foreshadowings.

The first couple notes of introduction to a great symphony that shall last forever. And so, so all of life really is about whether you have God set before you or not. And once you realize that even before he intervenes, you may have and must have himself for you. Then you start to respond to him already.

You start to respond. I will freely sacrifice to you. He says number six. I will praise your name. Oh, we always for it is good. He's still on the run as a fights have still sold him out. Saul is still hunting him down to kill him. And yet, he knows not only how it ends, but the blessedness that he has now because Yahweh is his helper.

He always is life and so he responds with the great, right? Response to God. And to the fact that he exists with worship and praise in verse 6 and the worship and praise, of course, as a reminder of what you'll be doing forever. And so that gives him confidence for seven.

He's delivered me out of all trouble. My eye has seen its desire upon my enemies. He has delivered me in the future. My eye has seen his desire upon my enemies in the future but not any less. So just because it's in the future because God is faithful, cut them off in your truth or cut them off in your faithfulness.

He said the end of verse 5. God is faithful. All right, let's pray. Our Father. This is our great need to have you set before us. So that we will not be the fools with sin against you and provoke you to your face. And so that we will also have that motivation that is the best motivation.

For believers, not our immediate successes in earthly effectiveness but the immediate success of living unto you and knowing your pleasure in Jesus. In whom alone. We are able to live unto you and so we pray for the help of your spirit to make us to trust in Jesus and to live by faith in him in fellowship, with Him and service.

Alongside him that he who succeeded by his cross and that which pleased you most of everything that he had done would be our pattern that we would serve you. Well enjoying the benefit of whatever earthly success you give but infinitely or immeasurably more the benefit of living before you bringing you glory being used by you in ways we could never have anticipated.

And then coming at last to the day when you have set all things, right? And we enter into that blessedness, that is immeasurably more than even what we have had thus far. How good you are in this generosity? That pours out grace upon grace and blessing upon blessing. I'm gonna pray that you had make us to live in that joy and that strength in that faith me asking Christ's name.

Amen.